a1

1. (Amended) An apparatus for securing a grating sheet comprised of parallel and transverse bars forming a pattern of openings to a structural member, the apparatus comprising:

an elongated generally L-shaped connector having an upper plate section generally rectangular in shape for mounting on [the] an upper surface of the grating sheet;

a downwardly extending sidewall formed integrally with the plate section and adapted to extend [extending] along a longitudinal edge of the grating sheet; and

attachment means for securing the sidewall to the structural member[.], wherein said apparatus is formed of corrosion resistant material and is able to withstand the forces of waves in a wave-zone portion of an offshore platform.

a2

3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein [the apparatus is formed of a] said corrosion resistant material[s such as] is stainless steel.

4. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein [the apparatus is formed of a] said corrosion resistant material[s such as] is fiberglass.

5. (Amended) An apparatus for securing a fiberglass grating sheet, comprised of parallel and transverse bars forming a pattern of openings, to a support member, the apparatus comprising:

an elongated generally L-shaped connector member for attachment to the grating sheet and to the support member, the connector member including an upper plate section generally rectangular in shape for mounting on [the] an upper surface of the grating sheet;

a downwardly extending sidewall integral with the plate section and [extending] adapted to extend along a longitudinal edge of the grating sheet, wherein the sidewall and the plate section form a bracket for securing the grating sheet;

a plurality of downwardly extending teeth formed integrally with the plate section and spaced from each other for insertion between the grating bars; and

securing means for securing said sidewall to said support member,

wherein said apparatus is formed of corrosion resistant material and is able to withstand the forces of waves in a wave-zone portion of an offshore platform.

6. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein [the apparatus is formed of a] said corrosion resistant material[s such as] is stainless steel.

7. (Amended) An apparatus for securing a grating sheet to structural members, the grating sheet including an upper and lower surface, the apparatus comprising:

a top plate for mounting on the upper surface of the grating sheet, the top plate having a hole therein and upper and lower surfaces;

a bottom plate having a slot opening, the bottom plate being sized and shaped for attaching to the structural member in a laterally extending direction for supporting the grating sheet; and

engaging means for clamping the top plate and bottom plate together in order to secure the grating sheet to the structural members so as to prevent displacement of the grating sheet from the structural members by extreme wave action,

wherein said apparatus is formed of corrosion resistant material and is able to withstand the forces of waves in a wave-zone portion of an offshore platform area.

a3

12. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a cylindrical standoff secured to the lower surface of the top plate for placement between adjacent grating bars, the standoff having a bore and an opening sized and shaped to receive a portion of [the] a bolt member therethrough.

13. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein [the apparatus is formed of a] said corrosion resistant material[s such as] is stainless steel.

a4

14. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein [the] said grating sheet is a plurality of grating sheets used to form a floor for a walkway on an offshore platform and the structural members provide support for the walkway.

a5

15. (Amended) A fastening system for securing grating sheets having longitudinal edges comprised of parallel and transverse bars forming a pattern of openings to structural members of an offshore platform[s] or other similar platform[s], comprising:

elongated generally L-shaped connectors for fastening the longitudinal edges of grating sheets to structural members in a wave zone area of the platform;

plate fasteners including a top plate for mounting on an upper surface of the grating sheets, a bottom plate for attaching to the structural members in a laterally extending direction for supporting the grating sheets and engaging means for clamping the top and bottom plates together in order to secure the grating sheets to the structural members in a wave zone area of the platform;

whereby the [combination of the] elongated L-shaped connectors [and] together with the plate fasteners provide fastening support for the grating[s] sheets so as to resist vertical and